Creation of separate department of land resources

2287. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mohan Dharia Committee report on creation of separate Land Resource Department vetted by the Planning Commission has been accepted by Government;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up a special cell under his Ministry in order to avoid duplication and delay, presently involved, in various Ministries/Departments of the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. The High Level Committee on Wastelands Development headed by Shri Mohan Dharia in its report submitted in December 1995, recommended the creation of a Department of Land Resources. In light of the recommendation of the High Level Committee, Department of Land Resources was created in April 1999 and activities like Land Reforms, Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) were transferred to the new Department.

(b) and (c) Presently, programmes relating to Soil Conservation and Watershed Development are being implemented by the Department of Land Resources and by the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests, and Planning Commission with different guidelines and varying financial patterns. A proposal is under consideration to set up a National Mission for Land and Watershed Development in the Department of Land Resources and to transfer to it various programmes and schemes relating to the conservation, development and management of land resources of the country.

Water management plans for rural development

2288. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any water management plans for rural development;